



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jason Salazar, Chief of Police

Sergeant Mike Short, Public Information Officer
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
mike.short@visalia.city

*****NEWS RELEASE*****
January 26, 2022

VPD Report Number: 22-006202

Date/Time Occurred: 1/24/22 9:13pm

Type of Incident: Shooting

Location: 200 blk W. Main St.

Name of Business (if applicable):

El Tarasco

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. Michael Wessel

39

Yes

2.

Details: On January 24, 2022, Visalia Police Department officers responded to the 200 block of W. Main St for a report of a shooting. The investigation revealed two males left El Tarasco restaurant and entered their vehicle to leave. As they began to drive away, the driver of the vehicle fired one gunshot towards El Tarasco before leaving the scene. A parked vehicle and the restaurant were struck by the gunshot. No one was injured. Property Crimes detectives were called to the scene and were able to identify the suspect vehicle used in this shooting.

On January 25, 2022, detectives were able to identify the suspect as 39-year-old Michael Wessel. At about 7:30 p.m., the suspect vehicle was located by patrol officers near Caldwell and Linwood. Wessel was stopped and taken into custody without incident. His vehicle was impounded for further investigation.

Detectives continued their investigation and located the firearm used in this incident at a residence in Visalia. Wessel is a convicted felon and prohibited from possessing a firearm. Wessel was booked into the Tulare County Pre-Trial Facility for shooting at an inhabited dwelling and felon in possession of a firearm.

The motive for the shooting remains under investigation. Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact Detective Julie Peterson at (559) 713-4101.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: VPD Property Crimes / Patrol

Supervisor: Sgt. D. Maurice



